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ASSISTANT MINORITY WHIP

COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
COMMUNICATIONS, TECHNOLOGY AND THE INTERNET

SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMERCE,
TRADE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3505

July 22, 2010

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The Honorable Thomas Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

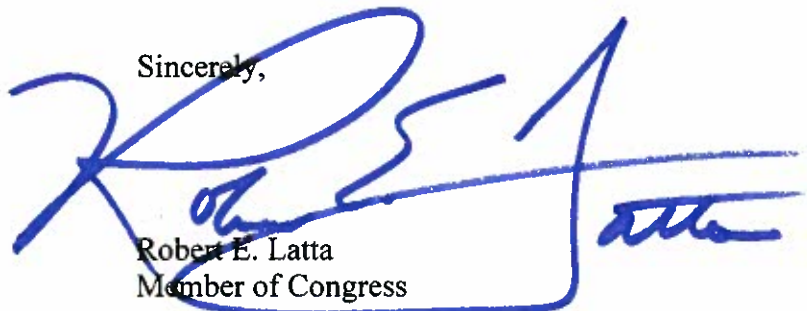
Dear Secretary Vilsack,

I write to you in regards to the USDA's June 22nd Grain Inspection Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) proposed rule to define terms and improve enforcement of the Packers and Stockyards Act (PSA). This proposed rule is in accordance with the requirements under Title XI of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, otherwise known as the 2008 Farm Bill, and existing authorities in the Packers and Stockyards Act.

I have heard from my constituents who will be directly affected by this proposed rule and understand that its breadth may have far reaching effects on meat and poultry production in the U.S. I feel a 60-day comment period is not a sufficient amount of time for producers, growers, bankers, and other interested parties who are involved in these industries to fully comprehend everything that the proposed rule entails. With this in mind, I ask that you extend this comment period past its current closing date of August 23, 2010, by an additional 120 days to allow these individuals to understand how their industry will be affected and what changes to their business practices need to be made to comply with this proposed rule.

Allowing interested parties the chance for additional review will allow submission of comments that better reflect the time effects of this proposed rule. I look forward to hearing your timely response on this matter. In addition, please consider in any future proposed rule that your agency releases, that you consider any unintended consequences and look at the potential negative impacts a proposed rule may have on the agricultural production community.

Sincerely,



Robert E. Latta
Member of Congress

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